Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims below is intended to replace all prior listings of the claims in the present application.

1. (currently amended) A monoclonal antibody preparation comprising antibodies or fragments thereof capable of selectively binding to a three dimensional conformation provided by the C-terminal part of the PrP^{SC} isoform of the prion protein or a portion thereof, while not binding to the PrP^{C} isoform when both isoforms are present in a sample in a native, non-denatured state, wherein the monoclonal antibody preparation is raised against a peptide consisting essentially of SEQ ID No. 1 or SEQ ID No. 2.

2. (previously presented) The antibody preparation according to claim 1, wherein the C-terminal part comprises a region of the prion protein ranging from about amino acid no. 190 to amino acid no. 214 of the prion protein, or variants thereof, obtained by substituting or omitting or adding one or more amino acids without changing the three dimensional configuration thereof.

3. (previously presented) The antibody preparation according to claim 1, wherein the protein sequence recognized by the antibody is (SEQ ID No. 1) Cys-Ile-Thr-Gln-Tyr-Glu-Arg-Glu-Ser-Gln-Ala-Tyr-Tyr- or a part thereof.

4. (currently amended) The antibody preparation according to claim 1, wherein monoclonal antibodies but not their fragments are present.

5. (previously presented) The antibody preparation according to claim 1, wherein the monoclonal antibodies or fragments thereof are linked to markers.

6. (previously presented) The antibody preparation according to claim 1, which is derived from the hybridoma cell line CNCM I-2476.

7-9 (canceled)

10. (withdrawn) A method of producing an antibody preparation according to claim 1 comprising the steps of:

immunizing an animal with an amount of a peptide ~~having~~ consisting essentially of the amino acid sequence (SEQ ID No: 1) -Cys-Ile-Thr-Gln-Tyr-Glu-Arg-Glu-Ser-Gln-Ala-Tyr-Tyr-

or

(SEQ ID No: 2) -Cys-Ile-Thr-Gln-Tyr-Gln-Arg-Glu-Ser-Gln-Ala-Tyr-Tyr-

or a variant thereof, obtained by substituting, deleting or adding one or more amino acids with the proviso that the three dimensional conformation is essentially retained, sufficient to elicit an immune response;

isolating from the immunized animal a splenocyte that produces ~~the~~ an antibody that recognizes the peptide; and

fusing the isolated splenocyte with a myeloma cell to form a hybridoma cell that secretes the antibody as a monoclonal antibody preparation.

11. (canceled)

12. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising:

an antibody preparation according to claim 1 and

a suitable carrier.

13. (previously presented) A hybridoma cell line capable of producing an antibody according to claim 1.

14. (currently amended) The ~~Hybridoma~~ hybridoma cell line according to claim 13, which is CNCM I-2476.

15-19 (canceled)

20. (currently amended) The antibody preparation according to claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein the C-terminal part comprises a region of the prion protein ranging from amino acid no. 202 to amino acid no. 214 or to variants obtained by substituting or omitting or adding one or more amino acids without changing the three dimensional configuration thereof.

21-23 (canceled)

24. (withdrawn) A method of diagnosing Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, Creutzfeld-Jacobs-Disease, a variant form of Creutzfeld-Jacobs-Disease or Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy related diseases comprising:

contacting a specimen with the antibody of claim 1 or a functional part thereof under immunological reaction conditions; and

detecting any immunological binding between the specimen and the antibody.

25. (withdrawn) A method of treating Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, Creutzfeld-Jacobs-Disease, a variant form of Creutzfeld-Jacobs-Disease or Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy related diseases, said method comprising:

producing the antibody according to claim 1; and

injecting said antibody into individuals in an amount effective to provide an immune response to the infectious agent of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, Creutzfeld-Jacobs-Disease, a variant form of Creutzfeld-Jacobs-Disease and Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy related diseases.

26. (withdrawn) A kit for the diagnosis of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, Creutzfeld-Jacobs-Disease, a variant form of Creutzfeld-Jacobs-Disease or Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy related diseases, said kit comprising:

an antibody according to claim 1, wherein the antibody binds under immunological conditions to a biological sample of an individual infected with Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, Creutzfeld-Jacobs-Disease, a variant form of Creutzfeld-Jacobs-Disease or a Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy related disease.

27. (withdrawn) ~~A~~ The kit according to claim 26, further comprising:

a solid support material,

buffers, and

markers for detection of any immunological binding of the antibody in a biological sample.

28-30 (canceled)

31. (withdrawn) A kit for treating individuals against Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, Creutzfeld-Jacobs-Disease, a variant form of Creutzfeld-Jacobs-Disease or Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy related diseases, said kit comprising:

an antibody according to claim 1 and

a carrier suitable for administration to an individual.

32. (currently amended) The antibody preparation according to claim 1, wherein the monoclonal antibodies or fragments thereof are raised against a peptide ~~having the amino acid sequence~~ consisting essentially of SEQ ID No: 1 ~~or SEQ ID No: 2~~.

33. (new) The antibody preparation according to claim 1, wherein the monoclonal antibodies or fragments thereof are raised against a peptide consisting essentially of SEQ ID No: 2.

34. (new) The antibody preparation according to claim 1, wherein the protein sequence recognized by the antibody is (SEQ ID No: 2) -Cys-Ile-Thr-Gln-Tyr-Gln-Arg-Glu-Ser-Gln-Ala-Tyr-Tyr-.